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4.27.23

Palestinian terrorist shot in West Bank ramming rage of IDF troops

4.27.23

Palestinian shot in suspected West Bank ramming attack

The suspected terrorist rams his car into people at the intersection outside the West Bank settlement of Ariel, and then attempts to stab a police officer, before being shot and neutralized by an IDF soldier

Elisha Ben Kimon|10:09

A Palestinian man was shot on Thursday after allegedly ramming his car into people standing at an intersection near the West Bank settlement of Ariel in a suspected terror attack.

According to initial reports, the assailant attempted to drive into a group of soldiers but was blocked by a concrete barricade and collided with another car.

A police officer at the scene thought it was a car accident and approached the vehicle when at the same time, the assailant got out of his car armed with a knife and tried to stab the officer. IDF troops, already on alert, shot at him and neutralized him.

No one other than the assailant was injured in the incident.

Antisemitism is threat to democracy, US hate envoy says

Deborah Lipstadt tells MSNBC that antisemitism 'starts with Jews and it never ends with Jews', and that the public must be willing to call it out when they hear it

Ynet News

4.27.23

Haredi rabbis will not rally for overhaul; but see Supreme Court is far from the Shema

4.27.23

Over one hundred thousand rally in favor of judicial overhaul

Smotrich promises crowd Judicial overhaul will be passed and enacted; Levin says legislation will correct ills of a system that allows the court power greater than that of the Knesset or government; says would not diminish personal rights

Gilad Cohen, Moran Azulay, Kobi Nachshoni|08:09

At least one hundred thousand supporters of the government rallied outside the Knesset on Thursday evening calling for the judicial overhaul to be enacted and the power of the Supreme Court to be curtailed.

"We don't want compromise," the crowd chanted, referring to talks being held between representatives of the coalition and opposition under the auspices of President Isaac Herzog, to agree on a compromise legislation that would replace the judicial overhaul, advanced by the government.

Head of the Religious Zionism Party, Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich said in his speech that the judicial overhaul will be passed in the Knesset. "I promise you that," he told the crowd.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is not expected to attend, said on his social media that he was moved by the large crowd that chose to express their support.

The ruling conservative Likud Party and its far-right coalition ally Otzma Yehudit have sponsored the event, which was branded as "The One Million March," although the number of participants is not expected to reach anywhere near that figure.

Justice Minister Yariv Levin said the people have spoken in the elections, in favor of the judicial overhaul and the government was elected with a majority in the Knesset, to repair the ills of a one-sided judicial system, with judges who are above the Knesset and the government," he said. adding that there must also be a limit on the power of legal advisers.

"Since I presented the judicial reform, more and more people understand the need for the legislation. he said. "I believe we can reach an agreement in negotiations that would include much of what we are seeking," he said.

I have been attacked and berated in the past months but I have only grown stronger.

"We are in an unusual situation in Israel in recent months that, in my opinion, the country has not experienced before. There is an atmosphere here where people are trying to paint a picture as if the elected government does not really represent the people, and today we are protesting to show that it does."

Meanwhile, a prominent Haredi newspaper which represents coalition member faction United Torah Judaism tried to distance itself from the demonstration in Jerusalem and called on the ultra-Orthodox public not to take part in it.

Israel Friedman, one of the senior editors of the newspaper Yated Ne'eman, wrote in an editorial that "it is forbidden to be there, there is nothing to look for there."

According to him, "Haredi Judaism is neither left nor right", but rather adheres to the ruling of the rabbis."

"The Torah prohibits demonstrations, except in rare cases where protest rallies are declared by Gdolei Hador (the most revered rabbis of the generation).

Friedman further explained that while the Haredi parties have made a political pact with the bloc that represents traditional and conservative values, but it does not mean they should see eye to eye on every issue.

"A deep ideological abyss divides us from them," he wrote. "Parallel lines that will never meet. We are as far from them as [former Supreme Court chief justice Aharon Barak] is far from reciting the 'Shema Yisrael' prayer'," he wrote.

He added that the Haredi public does support the legal shakeup push, but criticized the right for reciprocating the "anarchist left's lawless protests", which he compared to the Arab Spring protests of the previous decade.

4.27.23

Ministers Wasserlauf & Ben-Gvir promote a Constitution on Zionist core values

4.27.23

Far-right minister promotes bill to base government policy on 'Zionist values'

Yitzhak Wasserlauf says legislation will 'enable us to prioritize IDF soldiers and reservists' and 'bolster Jewish settlement in the Negev and Galilee'; critics argue bill opens door to discrimination against non-Jewish citizens
Tova Zimukij06:48

A far-right minister announced on Wednesday that he is seeking to advance a bill that would steer government decision-making according to "Zionist values."

The author of the bill—Negev, Galilee, and National Resilience Minister Yitzhak Wasserlauf of National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's ultranationalist Otzma Yehudit Party—said that the legislation will affect government policy, legislation, and actions, including in ministries and other governmental bodies.

Wasserlauf stated that the legislation will be predicated on the controversial Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People which was passed in 2018 and enshrines into law Israel's status as the homeland of the Jewish people.

Critics have argued that the Basic Law, one of a collection of laws that act as Israel's de facto constitution, opens the door to discrimination against non-Jewish citizens.

Wasserlauf said that "the bill will enable us to prioritize IDF soldiers in combat roles in particular and IDF reservists in general, bolster Jewish settlement in the Negev and Galilee, and to educate according to Zionist values," and added that "this is a historic decision means 'Zionism above all'."

Ben-Gvir noted that "We need to explicitly state things that were once naturally understood. Zionism is the core value of the Jewish state. We are returning Zionist values to their rightful place as ones who will guide every government decision."

The proposal states that "Zionist values, as expressed in the Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People, will be guiding and decisive principles in shaping public administration policy, domestic and foreign policy, legislation, and actions of the government and all its units and institutions, both in shaping and implementing public policies - without detracting from the principles found in other Basic Laws."

"The legislation's aim is to instruct all areas of government and its branches to give weight to Zionist values when determining and implementing policies," the proposal states.

However, according to Dr. Amir Fuchs of the Israel Democracy Institute, if the law will grant unique benefits to Jews in budgets or allocation of land, it will contradict the Declaration of Independence and other Basic Laws, and could lead to discrimination against non-Jewish Israelis under the veneer of "Zionist values" contrary to Israel's democratic identity.

Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara will be required to address the issue before the government meets to discuss the proposal, but according to legal sources, the bill will face both legal and constitutional challenges.

The proposal is based on a clause in the coalition agreement between Otzma Yehudit and the ruling Likud Party, which states that: "Within 30 days of the government's establishment, a decision will be made according to which Zionism will be considered as

the prime value in shaping public policy, domestic and foreign policy, legislation, and state activities.

“The law will be decisive in areas of planning, tenders, exemptions, and appropriations, while benefiting mainly the Negev, Galilee, and IDF reservists.”

4.26.23

Knesset opening next week after a mass rally Thursday to support judicial overhaul

4.26.23

Government supporters to hold mass rally in Jerusalem

Organizers say they expect hundreds of thousands to attend rally outside the Knesset on Thursday, calling on judicial overhaul to be passed; Ministers to attend event under the banner: 'They will not steal our elections'

a man with a beard

Adam Kutub|15:09

Ahead of the opening of the Knesset's summer session next week, the government has called for a show of force in support of its judicial overhaul, to be held on Thursday in

Justice Minister Yariv Levin on Wednesday posted a call to the right-wing and religious electorate to show up in great numbers. In his post, Levin turned to his followers and said "I need each and every one of you"

Levin's plea followed earlier calls from Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich, and Energy Minister Israel Katz as well as other members of the government, in their weeks-long campaign to hold what they hope will be a million man strong event under the banner: "They will not steal our elections."

Supporters of the government had already held demonstrations in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem last month and others were held in other parts of the country last week. In one, participants dressed in traditional Yemenite costumes and held broomsticks and rags, to express the discrimination against members of the Yemenite community who were maids and cleaners to the "elitist" Ashkenazi Israelis.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not expected to attend but some ministers are scheduled to speak as are rabbis and former members of the military.

Organizers said security considerations prevented Netanyahu's attendance while his close aids have been promoting the event on digital platforms.

Organizers including Likud Member of Knesset Avichai Buaron and right-wing advocacy groups opened a FundMe page to collect donations for what they describe as a fixing the judicial system and calling on the government and coalition to use their mandate to right a wrong. "We will not be second rate citizens," they wrote.

They criticized the opposition to the legislative push claiming the mass protests that have been taking place in the past months, were financed by European funds and foreign governments.

The rally is a test for organizers who hoped to fight the narrative of the pro-democracy protests and have enlisted media advisors, purchased ads on billboards, newspapers and on digital platforms as well as calling on right-wing celebrities and influences to promote their cause.

Organizers said 1,000 buses have already been booked to transport those wishing to attend from the far 100 locations across the country including West Bank settlements, with the help of Likud mayors and have been in dialogue with ultra-Orthodox leaders to ensure a large Haredi participation.

To that end they said they would have separate areas for men and women to accommodate the ultra-Orthodox participants. But according to reports, their efforts have not been successful, and the political leaders of the Haredi sector said they would not be joining the rally.

Organizers also criticized the police who they accused of complacency despite the force saying that they plan to secure the event with an increased deployment of troops.

"They don't want to appear supporting one side," an organizer said. Others slammed the Transportation Ministry, headed by outspoken minister Miri Regev, for failing to prepare adequate public transport in advance.

In a letter to Regev and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir Buaron wrote he expected hundreds of thousands to attend the rally, at the very least, based on the number of buses already reserved. And asked them to step up and prevent calamity. Both ministers are vocal advocates of the government's proposed policies.

4.25.23

Memorial Day closes & Mount Herzl torch-lighting ushers in 75th Independence Day

4.25.23

Israel turns 75: National ceremony kicks off festivities amid deep divide

Country transitions from mourning to joy under specter of mass anti-judicial reform protests with traditional torch-lighting ceremony on Jerusalem's Mount Herzl

Liran Tamari|Updated:13:20

Hundreds of guests gathered Tuesday evening for the traditional torch-lighting ceremony on Jerusalem's Mount Herzl that closes Israel's Memorial Day and ushers in its 75th Independence Day.

The event's organizers, led by the government's representative Transportation Minister Miri Regev, have raised concerns about guests interrupting the event to protest the government's highly controversial judicial reform push.

Although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was present at the event, he did not deliver a speech, as is customary. Instead, a short pre-recorded video of him played at the beginning of the event.

Rabbi Leo Dee, who lost his wife Lucy and daughters Maia and Rina in a terror attack earlier this month, recited the Yizkor memorial prayer at the ceremony.

Rabbi Dee touched the hearts of the entire nation when he called to share the national flag on social media in memory of his wife and daughters. The remaining Dee tribe also decided to donate Lucy's organs, which saved the lives of five Israelis.

Rabbi Leo Dee recited the Yizkor memorial prayer at the national ceremony on Mount Herzl

Then, one by one, the 12 torches were lit by 12 different individuals who were chosen this year for their outstanding achievements and contributions to Israeli society. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of protesters gathered in Tel Aviv to voice their opposition to the government's court legislation.

Last week, Minister Regev argued during a situation assessment with police and intelligence officials ahead of the main ceremony that while protests against government policies may be appropriate on the streets and highways, the same would be unacceptable at Mount Herzl, Israel's national cemetery.

Regev said that she will enact a "zero tolerance" policy toward "provocations" and added that "I accept and respect the demonstrations, but the right to demonstrate is not a right to anarchy and to disturb others."

Regev has instructed that in case of any disruptions during the ceremony, the director would cut to the pre-recorded dress rehearsal taking place at the beginning of next week. In previous years, a pre-recorded backup was prepared but never utilized. The minister also ordered the immediate removal of hecklers from the venue.

First published: 20:27, 04.25.23

4.25.23

UN Council refuses to honor Israel; as PA condemns it as the root of all problems

4.25.23

Israel envoy walks out of Security Council hearing in Memorial Day protest

Gilad Erdan reads aloud names of terror victims killed in past year and lights candle before storming out of chamber; 'I refuse to take part in this absurd farce,' says Erdan after 'numerous requests to reschedule' meeting on Palestinians went unanswered

Itamar Eichner|10:55

Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gilad Erdan staged a walkout from a Security Council hearing on the Palestinians on Tuesday to protest against the meeting being held on Israel's Memorial Day.

"Today's debate has crossed all lines," accused Erdan. "Not only am I both appalled and outraged to the very depth of my soul, but I am sad. Very sad.

Today is one of the most sacred days of the year for the State of Israel. Today is Memorial Day for our fallen troops and victims of terror. The day during which every Israel remembers those who paid the ultimate price while defending the Jewish homeland."

According to Erdan, the session was being held on Memorial Day despite "numerous requests to reschedule," which, he adds, proves the international body's anti-Israel bias. Erdan directed his attention to the council president, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, and posed a hypothetical question regarding how he would respond to an event condemning Russian troops on May 9th, which is Russia's Victory Day and a highly significant holiday.

"While Israelis mourn, this council, as usual, will hear more blatant lies condemning the State of Israel and falsely painting it as the root of all the region's problems," he continued.

"This couldn't be any further from the truth. The only reason this conflict has not yet been resolved is because the Palestinians refuse to accept the very existence of Israel, the Jewish state.

They've proven this by rejecting any peace initiative and by inciting to terrorism, brainwashing their children to hate and murder Jews. Shame, shame shame."

Erdan decried Iran, which he cast as the "greatest threat to the region", and its nuclear program's absence from the Security Council's agenda.

"So today, on this sacred and solemn day during which we Israelis bow our heads to the 28,468 fallen soldiers and victims of terror, I refuse to take part in this absurd farce," he added.

Erdan then read aloud the names of terror victims who were killed in the past year, lit a candle in their memory, and then stormed out of the chamber.

4.24.23

Iran providing Russian troops with weapons tools ammunition through the Caspian Sea

4.24.23

Iran ramps up campaign to re-supply Russian troops, report says

As relations warm between Russia and Iran, the Islamic Republic is providing large quantities of tools and ammunition to help replenish the Russian forces' weapons stockpiles, transported through the Caspian Sea

Ynet|14:08

Russia has been receiving large quantities of artillery munitions from Iran in recent months in order to replenish its dwindling stockpiles as Moscow's campaign in Ukraine continues, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday.

Officials in the Middle East said that over the past six months, Russian cargo ships have transported more than 300,000 artillery shells and one million rounds of ammunition from Iran to Russia through the Caspian Sea.

Tehran has been providing military aid to Russia during the conflict, some of which has come in the form of suicide drones.

The Kremlin announced Monday that it thwarted a Ukrainian attack on a naval base in Sevastopol, located in the Crimean Peninsula. Three unmanned boats attempting to attack the Russian naval base were destroyed, according to the Defense Ministry.

The city's governor previously reported that two drones attempting to attack the port were intercepted, and one was destroyed while the other detonated harmlessly.

Also on Monday Russia reported the discovery of an "unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that self-destructed" near Moscow.

According to Russian media, the UAV carried 17 kg of explosives that went undetonated. Russia claims that the UAV crashed after running out of fuel or colliding with a tree in the nearby forest.

Analysts predict that Ukraine will mount a counterattack this spring to regain its occupied territories. The counteroffensive will target southern regions Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, two of four areas annexed by Russia during the war.

Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine, comprising the Donbas region, are the other two annexed areas.

The driving force behind Russia's efforts to seize the city by force are the mercenaries of the Wagner Group - the private military company led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a close associate of Vladimir Putin.

Prigozhin has been known to harshly criticize the Russian military's conduct in Ukraine, and his remarks have caused some discomfort among the inner circle of Kremlin decision-makers.

On Sunday, in response to reports that two Ukrainian soldiers killed a captured Russian prisoner of war, Prigozhin called on his mercenaries to kill Ukrainian soldiers in retaliation - rather than taking them prisoner.

Over the weekend, Prigozhin made a revelation that shook things up - that the son of Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov is among the Wagner Group fighters in Ukraine.

According to Prigozhin, Nikolai Peskov served as a rookie for three weeks before being deployed to the Luhansk region, where he served as a sharpshooter during the war.

4.24.23

Two years after Mount Meron disaster, insurers unwilling to cover festivities

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Two years after Mount Meron disaster, insurers unwilling to cover festivities

With just two weeks left until hundreds of thousands make Lag BaOmer pilgrimage, organizers struggle to get coverage following deadly crush that left 45 dead, with some threatening to resign

Kobi Nachshoni|13:19

With Lag BaOmer festivities just two weeks away and hundreds of thousands of pilgrims expected to visit the gravesite of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai on Mount Meron, no insurance company in Israel or around the world is willing to provide coverage for the event.

A similar issue emerged last year in the aftermath of the Mount Meron tragedy in 2021, in which 45 pilgrims were crushed to death due to lacking crowd control. The lack of insurance coverage left the site's management vulnerable to personal lawsuits in case of any harm caused to worshippers and visitors.

At a Knesset hearing regarding the matter on Monday, a local government official responsible for organizing the event threatened to resign if answers were not provided in a timely manner.

"We're at the wire, and as we approach the festivities, there's a likelihood that someone will say that this event cannot take place without insurance. That's irresponsible," she said. "I want answers today on whether I should resign because no one is protecting us." Yossi Deitch, the government-appointed overseer of the Meron celebration, pulled no punches in his testimony to the committee: "This is the largest civil event this country has ever seen. And yet, if an accident were to occur, no one is insured. It's not my responsibility, but the government's. Let them take care of it."

"I have been working without insurance for three months now," he added. "It's unacceptable that everyone washes their hands of the matter. The State of Israel has to take responsibility."

There's a point where I can't continue anymore. Anyone who hears about Meron runs away from it and is not willing to take on this liability. A few years ago there was no problem insuring it, but after the tragedy at Meron, anyone in their right mind stays away from it."

4.24.23

Eight hurt in Jerusalem market car-ramming; PA terrorist killed by armed civilian

4.24.23

Eight hurt in suspected car-ramming attack in Jerusalem

First responders treating victims on-scene near capital's Mahane Yehuda market; one man in serious condition, woman moderately wounded, six individuals sustain light injuries; Palestinian motorist shot and neutralized

Liran Tamari, Gilad Cohen|Updated:09:41

Eight pedestrians were injured in Jerusalem on Monday after a car slammed into them in a suspected terrorist attack, emergency services said.

First responders arrived at the scene near the capital's famous Mahane Yehuda market and administered first aid to the victims - a man in his 60s in serious condition, one woman in her 30s in moderate condition and another six people who sustained light injuries. They were taken to Shaare Zedek and Hadassah Ein Kerem medical centers in Jerusalem.

According to a preliminary police probe, the motorist - a Palestinian man from East Jerusalem in his 30s with a history of mental health issues and security offenses - hit one pedestrian who was crossing the road and then veered into another group of people before crashing into a fence. An armed bystander opened fire at the driver and neutralized him.

A shopkeeper who witnessed the incident told Ynet: "I went outside and saw someone on the ground. Then the shooting started and I ran back into the store. I saw four or five cars crashing into one another."

Armed civilian neutralizes Jerusalem attacker

First published: 16:40, 04.24.23

4.23.23

New Navy Corvette warships have 20 Israeli-made systems to protect gas fields

4.23.23

Navy's new warships ready to protect maritime gas fields

Sa'ar 6-class Corvettes purchased just two years ago, break record time to become operational, include chopper landing pad, accurate offensive abilities, longer ranges, improved operational flexibility, and better capabilities to face advanced threats
Yoav Zitun|Yesterday | 15:42

The Israeli Navy declared Sunday that three of their four new Sa'ar 6-class Corvettes - which were purchased from Germany two years ago - were operational and their main task will be to protect Israel's gas fields. The fourth will become operational soon.

Three of the four ships that the IDF purchased underwent the operational deployment process, which included the installation of 20 combat systems, most of them Israeli-made. The fourth warship is expected to be operational in the coming back.

Among the special capabilities of the new Israeli ships are: Anti-missile systems and high-trajectory interception based on "Adir" radar systems, Naval Dome, and an LRAD (Long Range Acoustic Device). In addition, the warships have sea-to-sea missile capability with a system that will have more accurate offensive abilities, longer ranges, improved operational flexibility, and better capabilities to face advanced threats.

The Sa'ar 6 Corvettes will also possess air and surface target detection capabilities, and the ability to carry mid-size helicopters, such as the Seahawk.

"The mission of defending Israel's Exclusive Economic Zone and strategic assets at sea is the primary mission of the Israeli Navy," the Commander of the Israeli Navy, Maj. Gen. Eli Sharvit said. These assets are essential to the operational continuity of the State of Israel, and having the ability to protect them has critical importance. The security needed to protect the EEZ is clear. The best protection method of that space and the assets in it is by ships, and the Sa'ar 6 Corvettes fulfill that operational need in a precise and excellent way."

The new missile systems have already fired 30 missiles in its embedment process, and unlike the older warships, 25% of the ship's crew are females who live in separate and spacious quarters. In total, there are about 80 crew members on board, who have also been trained in firing barrages at the ship.

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Ynet-News, April 21, 2023 – Friday

4.21.23 – Su- - - News Placed in April 22 spot – Saturday

UN Humanitarian Affairs has no moral compass; refuse to recognize PA attacks

4.21.23 – Su- - - News Placed in April 21 spot – Friday

14 former FM diplomats fear Israel's UN pick as a proud dose of reality to the media

4.20.23 – Sa- - - News Placed in April 20 spot – Thursday

PM picks May Golan as Consul General in US; enraging critics of judicial overhaul

4.19.23 – We- - - News Placed in April 19 spot – Wednesday

Foreign Minister Cohen says Saudi Arabia could join Abraham Accords this year

4.19.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday

PA terrorists sentenced to 30 years jail & fine for 2020 car ramming 12 soldiers

4.18.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in April 18 spot – Tuesday

US & UK sanction Hezbollah network of cash, diamonds, gems, art & luxury goods

4.17.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in April 17 spot – Monday

PM & Herzog mark the 80th anniversary of Holocaust & ensure the victory of Israel

4.17.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in April 15 spot – Saturday

IDF foil Hezbollah, Iran Quds & PA smuggling weapons for West Bank terror

4.16.23 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Top Secret Pentagon leak uncovers tense Russian-Iranian relationship

4.16.23 – Su- - - News Placed in April 16 spot – Sunday

Pentagon leak suggests Israel training for Iran attack despite declining capability